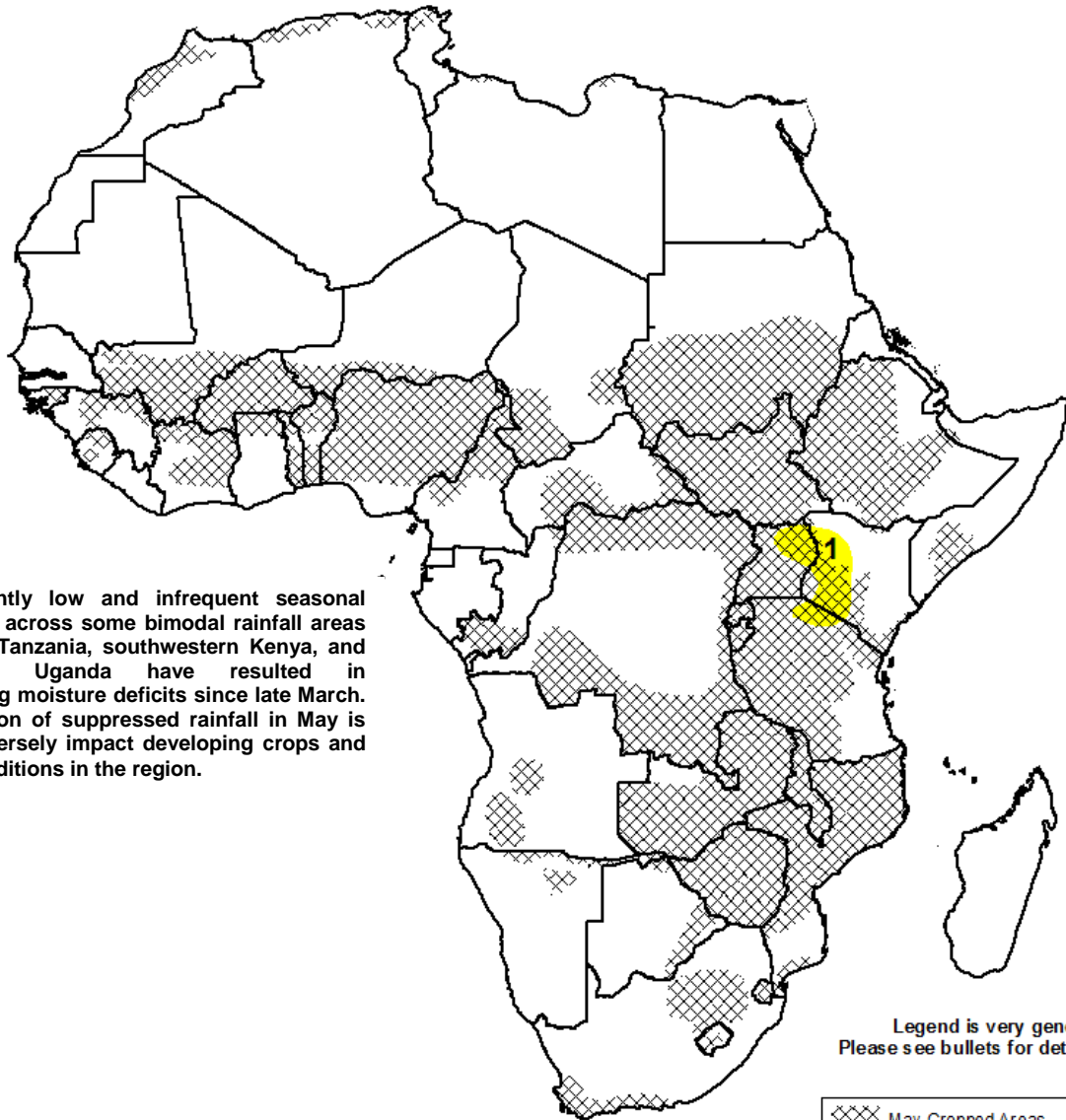# Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
May 8 – May 14, 2014

- Anomalously heavy rains were observed across much of South Sudan, increasing rainfall surpluses.
- Dryness continued across parts of Kenya and northeastern Uganda.

1) **Consistently low and infrequent seasonal precipitation across some bimodal rainfall areas of northern Tanzania, southwestern Kenya, and northeastern Uganda have resulted in strengthening moisture deficits since late March. A continuation of suppressed rainfall in May is likely to adversely impact developing crops and pastoral conditions in the region.**

Legend is very general.
Please see bullets for details.

	Legend
▨	May Cropped Areas
■	Flooding
■	Abnormal Dryness
■	Drought
■	Severe Drought
■	Tropical Cyclone
▭	Potential Locust Outbreak
▭	Heavy Snow
▭	Abnormal Cold
▭	Abnormal Heat

Heavy rains continued over South Sudan.

During the last week, heavy rains (>50mm) were observed across much of South Sudan, western Ethiopia and localized areas in central and eastern Ethiopia, Somalia and Uganda. For locations along the border between Sudan and South Sudan, the heavy, above-average weekly rainfall was the fifth consecutive week where rains were greater than 125% of normal. The elevated rainfall totals extend into western Ethiopia as rains have been heavy for 3-4 consecutive weeks. Elsewhere, moderate to locally heavy rain showers (>25mm) were observed across parts of central and southern Somalia, helping to reduce long-term rainfall deficits and improve ground moisture. However, rains were light (<10mm) across much of central Somalia. Similarly, much of Kenya remained dry during the past week as only light to locally moderate rain (<10mm, localized areas of 10-30mm) was observed (**Figure 1**).

Rainfall during the past seven days reflected a pattern that has been consistent over the past thirty days. Heavy and above-average weekly rainfall across South Sudan and western Ethiopia has increased thirty-day rainfall surpluses to between 50-150mm. The copious amounts of rain have left ground conditions saturated and increased the risk for localized flooding. The abundant rains in western Ethiopia have meant an above-average start to the Kiremt rainy season. However, abnormally dry conditions have developed due to poor rains over a large swath of the Greater Horn of Africa in southern/central Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and central Somalia. Thirty-day rainfall deficits exceed 50mm across these areas with localized areas around Lake Victoria in Kenya recording deficits over 100mm (**Figure 2**). Erratic seasonal rains have also been recorded in Belg-producing areas in the highlands of Ethiopia. Even locations in southern Somalia where thirty-day anomalies are positive have observed erratic and not well-distributed rain. Overall, dryness has continued to expand and strengthen over this region.

For the next week, an increase in moisture is expected for much of Somalia, which should help to relieve some dryness, while heavy rains (>50mm) are forecast in southern/western Ethiopia, southern South Sudan and Uganda. Moderate rains (10-40mm) are also forecast for parts of southwestern Kenya (**Figure 3**), which should help to reduce growing rainfall deficits. However, below-average rains are expected again across the rest of Kenya.

Heavy early season rains continue across West Africa.

Heavy rains (>50mm) during the last week increased thirty-day and seasonal rainfall surpluses across much of West Africa. The largest thirty-day surpluses (100-150mm) reside in Cote D'Ivoire and localized parts of southern Ghana and northern Cameroon. In general, surpluses between 25-100mm are common across West Africa (**Figure 2**). While the above-average rain to start the season has been beneficial, over-saturation and localized flooding is a concern in some of the wettest areas.

For the next week, moderate to heavy rain (>40mm) is forecast along the Gulf of Guinea in West Africa which is likely to further increase rainfall surpluses. Lighter amounts of rain (5-30mm) are expected farther north in West Africa (**Figure 3**).

Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: April 29 – May 5, 2014

Figure 1:   NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: April 6 – May 5, 2014

Figure 2:   NOAA/CPC

GFS Precipitation Forecast
Valid: May 7 – May 14, 2014

Figure 3:   NOAA/CPC

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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